Killing of Elephants

1654. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unscrupulous killing of elephants for their Ivory tusks and teeth in the different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, action being taken to protect the elephants?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Sporadic cases of unscrupulous killing of elephants by poachers for their tusks in different parts of the country have come to the notice of the Government of India.

(b) Action being taken to protect the elephant population include:—

(i) Indian Elephant is included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Therefore, there is a total ban on hunting of this species and trade in Indian Ivory products. International trade in Indian Ivory is also totally banned.

(ii) Government of India has provided assistance to the States for strengthening of their anti-poaching infrastructure under the "Centrally Sponsored Scheme Control of Poaching and Illegal Trade in Wildlife. An amount of Rs. 1 crore was provided as assistance under the scheme during the VII Five Year Plan. During 1990-91, an amount of Rs. 18.58 lakhs was sanctioned. The allocation for the year 1991-92 is Rs. 75 lakhs.

(iii) A scheme of "Project Elephant" is included in the VIII Five Year Plan. The scheme envisage as below:

(a) improvement of the habitat by way of control of grazing, plantation of suitable species for fodder and relocation of population outside the national parks and sanctuaries.

(b) restoring migration corridors for elephants.

(c) erecting electric fences along the borders of the forests to safeguard against human-elephant conflicts.

(d) proper compensation for damage to life and property caused by elephants.

(e) strengthening the anti-poaching infrastructure in States. The tentative budget allocation for the "Project Elephant" during the financial year 1991-92 is Rs. 2.5 crores.

(iv) Whenever necessary, help of police and civil administration is also taken to apprenhend the poachers.

Constitution of Medical Education Commission

1655. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Union Government to constitute a Medical Education Commission; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Committees appointed by the Government of India in the recent past have made recommendations for the establishment of an Education Commission in Health Sciences, namely:—

(i) The Medical Education Review Committee, whose report was placed before the Parliament on the 2nd May, 1986, had made a recommendation for the establishment of an autonomous Medical and Health Education Commission, which would be responsible for coordination, planning and implementation of various medical and health education programmes in all branches of health sciences, planning for the development of health manpower, allocation of funds and disbursement of grants to medical and health institutions, etc. This recommendation has been accepted in principle.

(ii) The Expert Committee on Health Manpower, Production and Management (Dr. Bajaj Committee) (1987) recommended that Education Commission Health Sciences should be established as a Central organisation in the field of professional education in health-related matters, on the lines of the University Grants Commission. The operational framework of the Commission would include:

(i) to provide realistic projections for national health manpower requirements;

(ii) provide facilities for production of projected health manpower including the establishment of one or more Universities of Health Sciences;

(iii) to implement desired changes in the curricular contents of training programmes for health personnel;

(iv) to facilitate the establishment of essential interlinkages between health functionaries of various grades; and

(v) to liaise with all existing professional councils and recommend, if necessary, establishment of council for other categories of health professionals, etc.

The recommendations of the above Committees would be kept in view while deciding the functions and the structure of the proposed Commission.

Proposal to phase out Adult Education Centres

1656. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to phase out adult education centres throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details of the results achieved by these centres so far; and

(d) whether any alternative scheme is being contemplated by Government to remove illiteracy amongst the adults in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The National Adult Education Programme (NAEP), introduced on 2nd